

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USUN N 01209 040148Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----092669 040149Z /64

O 040018Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0427
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 01209

NODIS

E.O.: 11652: XGDS 1 AND 2
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, MARR, UN, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: KASMIYA BRIDGE

REFS: JERUSALEM 960 AND 966

1. AMBASSADOR LEONARD MET ALONE WITH USYG URQUHART AT LATTER'S REQUEST MORNING APRIL 4 CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. URQUHART REPORTED THAT GUR, PRESUMABLY IN APRIL 2 MEETING, HAD SUGGESTED TO SILLASVUO AN ISRAELI FORCE MIGHT MOUNT A SMALL OPERATION AGAINST THE KASMIYA BRIDGE AND SUBSEQUENTLY TURN IT OVER TO UNIFIL FORCES. THIS WOULD SOLVE ALL THE PROBLEMS COVERED IN JERUSALEM 966. SILLASVUO DUTIFULLY REPORTED HIS CONVERSATION WITH GUR BACK TO URQUHART BUT APPARENTLY DID NOT EXPRESS ANY SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ON THE PROPOSAL. SILLASVUO THUS LEFT THE IMPRESSION WITH URQUHART OF TACITLY APPROVING THE ISRAELI SUGGESTION. URQUHART TOLD LEONARD THAT HIS CONFIDENCE IN SILLASVUO'S POLITICAL JUDGEMENT WAS BADLY SHAKEN. UNIFIL WOULD BE "DEAD" AFTER ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT.

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01209 040148Z

2. ALTHOUGH THE QUESTION IS NOW CLOSED, URQUHART IS HIGHLY DISTURBED BY THE VERY IDEA THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE THINKING OF SUCH AN OPERATION. URQUHART WORRIES THAT THE ISRAELIS COULD SEIZE SOME PRETEXT IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO ATTACK THE BRIDGE OR OTHER TARGETS. IT SHOWS, MOREOVER, THAT THE ISRAELIS AND EVEN SILLASVUO, WHOM URQUHART CONSIDERS ENTIRELY TOO CLOSE TO ISRAELIS, ARE LOOKING ON UNIFIL'S

TASK AS BASICALLY THAT OF "COMPLETING THE JOB" WHICH
ISRAEL FAILED TO CARRY THROUGH IN SOUTH LEBANON. LEONARD

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, MARR, IS, LE, XF, UN, UNIFIL
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